FROM THE FIELD.

From St. Louis, Missouri.

And still the EVANGELIST continues to bring good news from all parts of our beloved brotherhood. Since the appearance of my last article in the EVANGELIST I received a communication from Bro. L. M. Beechley, of Auburn, Ill., requesting me to come and preach for the brethren at that place, to which I consented, and an appointment was made for me in Auburn for last Sabbath, 11 a. m., and 7:30 p. m., of which I received due notice from Bro. Beechley. On last Saturday, the 13th, at 4:40 p. m., I boarded the train at St. Louis, and at 8:30 p. m., of same day found myself in Auburn. Notwithstanding Bro. Beechley and I had never met prior to that, he walked up to me and asked me whether I was Dr. Shomber. How he was able to 'spot' me so readily, is more than I am able to understand. I know it was not on account of my peculiar style of dress, and in other respects I am only an ordinary man. From Auburn I was conveyed by Bro, Beechley to his hospitable home, where I met his wife and children, and a happy family they are. We passed the time very pleasantly and hope profitably, until 11 o'clock when we retired for that physiological stimulant (sleep) which is so essential to vigor and strength.

On Sabbath morning at 9:30 we met in the Brethren church (Brethren and Christian Brethren Church) for Sabbath School, which was one of unusual interest on account of the interest manifested by the participants. Bro. L. M. Beechley is their superintendent. After the Sunday school exercises I tried to preach to an audience of interesting listeners; it being the first sermon I tried to preach for the past eight month, and to my surprise I talked an hour before I was aware of it, not because I had so much to say, but more likely, because I am accustomed to occupying one hour in delivering my medical lectures. After services I was kindly conveyed to the home of our aged and afflicted brother and sister Garber, by sister Susie Garber their daughter, where I was very kindly entertained and cared for, which includes plenty to eat. The afternoon was spent with this old father and mother in Israel and their daughter and son, and was surely spent to my own gratification if not to theirs. It is encouraging to hear, and see old veterans manifest such a degree of interest in the cause of the Master. In the evening we met again in the brethren's neat and commodious house for worship, and I again tried in my weakness to portray to the people, the beauty of active, live Christianity. This meeting was more largely attended, and all seemed to be earnest listeners. After services I gave the parting hand to the brethren and sisters who I did not expect to see again, and as arrangements had been made for me to lodge at the home of sister Susan Beechley, (widow of Bro. John Beechley,) and as she lives but a short distance from Auburn, I was soon comfortably situated in her pleasant home, where I spent the evening until a late hour with the aged sister, two daughters and two sons. Sister Beechley has reasons to congratulate herself over the proficiency of her children for important duties and usefulness in life. After pleasantly conversing with each other till a late hour, as already stated, I retired for the balance of the night in peaceful repose, and arose in the morning refreshed and competent to do my part in the way of unloading a groaning table of rich and delicious food. From the way these members whom I visited brought forward eatables in quality and quantity, I would judge they live in a land of plenty. After breakfast I was kindly conveyed in a buggy by sister Beechley, a daughter of Sister Susan Beechley, to the depot in Auburn, and was soon on my way to St. Louis. I met other members of whom I can not at present make mention, but will yet speak of Bro. J. R. Kimmel and his estimable wife, whom I also met and conversed with sufficient to create in me a little more than ordinary interest in them.

I fact, I can not help but speak in high terms of the members of the Auburn church, for their zeal and love for one another. I never heard a harmful word uttered, direct or indirect by any of them concerning each other, but spoke kindly and lovingly of each other. I was solicited to preach for them again in two weeks, which I agreed to do, the Lord will and I live and have sufficient health. They have no minister to serve them, but need one very much, and I believe they know how to appreciate one. I believe it is a good field for effectual work. Their membership has been greatly reduced the past year, by members emigrating west.

H. SHOMBER, M. D.
1119 Salisbury St., April 17.

Ashland, Ohio.

A little more good news. Last Saturday morning I boarded the train at Ashland and went to Ankneytown, Ohio. Preached Saturday night to a good congregation. Sunday morning attended Sunday School, which was organized two weeks ago. Sunday School was large and good. All seem to take hold of the work in earnest. By next Sunday they will have an organ in the Sunday School which will greatly aid in singing. Immediately after Sunday School I preached to a large attentive congregation. You may expect to hear of some good work being done at Ankneytown in the future. This church has had her dark days, but thank the Lord the day is rapidly dawning and soon she will shine in her beauty.

We have a nice, large, new church, and in a few weeks we will have a nice, large, new bell for it, which will give no uncertain sound, but will tell when God's people will worship. Then with our bell to ring the people together and the organ to help to sing songs of Zion, and by the united practical prayers of all God's people we have to rout the enemy and capture souls for Jesus. We are a going to do it if God permits and we believe he will.

On Sunday morning after services I went home with Bro. Swank, one of our leading men in erecting our new church for the worship of God. After eating a hearty dinner, we had a good social talk for several hours about things both new and old. Then Bro. Swank's son, a noble young man who ought to be in the church and we hope will be soon, took me over to Norty Liberty in his two horse buggy, where I preached to a house full of people. At the close of my discourse I gave an invitation when one young lady stepped forward and gave me her hand and God her heart. This made us all rejoice, and well we should for if the angels in heaven rejoiced why should we not.

Here at North Liberty we have a good large church built, some years ago before the division in the church, but it was built by a progressive set for they put a bell in it and a nice pulpit, and some how or other the progressives held it by paying back the German Baptist's money that they had invested. This church and Ankneytown shared their troubles together. Here at Liberty is where Mallott lived when the Mallott scandal took place, this with other troubles immediately following it has been a sore trial for these congregations. But after all this we have a good outlook for the future. We know that it will take hard work, but we are all going in to the work in earnest and we are already seeing the fruit of our labor. We ask the united prayers of all God's people in our behalf.

I am glad that the EVANGELIST has so much improved. I think it has been better for the last three or four months than it has ever been before. I am glad that controversies have been kept out of it. I am very fond of friendly controversy upon all Bible subjects, but I have been convinced that it is not expedient to have them in a paper that is used as an EVANGELIST. The kingdom of God, the punishment of the wicked and the Immortality of the soul are interesting subjects to me, and I am not afraid to ventilate them through the columns of the paper with any man, but I have learned that much controversy is an injury to the cause. And besides that they are not distinctive doctrines of our church and they never have been of any church of any note. The greatest reformers and historians that ever lived differed on these questions. Of course the kingdom of God is either above the stars or will be here on this earth. The wicked will either burn eternally, be restored, or annihilated, the soul is either immortal or it dies. These different views can not all be true and it is right to ventilate them, but not through the EVANGELIST. The paper should be devoted to subjects treating upon the distinctive doctrines of the Brethren church, such as faith, repentance, baptism, by trine immersion, foot-washing, Lord's supper and communion, and give general church news. Treat upon all subjects that are inclined to strengthen and build up the Brethren church.

Another reason I approve of the present course of the EVANGELIST is because in the past in ventilating those subjects some did not do it in the spirit of meekness. They would give their brother a wonderful consideration, but would not consider themselves that they should not be tempted. I hope that all our brethren will take interest in the paper and help to keep it good and pure and show to the world that we have the spirit of Christ which is love, joy, peace, long suffering, goodness, etc., then we will be fruitful and build up a strong church. May God help us to pray more in the spirit, walk in the spirit, live in the spirit and when Jesus comes be born again of the spirit and be with him and reign forever with him in the glorious kingdom of God. Amen.

ISAAC D. BOWMAN.

Centerview, Mo.

Last evening at our regular service, a young lady came forward and requested admission into the church. We baptized her today. We now number nine members at this point. Our cause here is assuming hopeful proportions.

We expect to commence a protracted meeting here on Tuesday, June 21st. We corresponded with several of our ablest evangelists to come to our aid, but are unable to secure their services at this time, so we will have to do the work ourselves. We are trying to work in the strength of Israel's God. We do not expect a boom, but we believe we are doing substantial work at this place.

The west is noted for its 'mushroom' cities; there is danger of building up 'mushroom' churches. We have learned the need of gaining substantial, reliable and loyal converts to the church. We would rather fight the devil with a half-dozen such converts than an army a thousand strong, who have no *principle* at stake, and who would flee at the first fire. We are trying to reason people into measures rather than gain such who are merely emotional. We *know* that success on that line makes the devil tremble, and causes him to beware.

We do not thus write because we think there is danger in having big (numerically) ingatherings, neither because we are not sympathetic. We know that thousands excel us in many good qualities, but in sympathy none excel us. We hold to the idea that people should know what they are about, especially in things bearing on their eternal interest. The commission of Christ is, 'Go and teach.' People should be instructed, then persuaded. May God bless the Brethren church in numerical strength, till she will number her millions of God-fearing, devoted, honest, and loyal souls. Then the gates of hell will not prevail.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Ashland, Ohio.

We are still trying to prove ourselves workmen that need not to be ashamed, here at Ashland. We believe we have more to contend against than other churches but we are battling for the right, and marching on to victory through the Lord Jesus. Last Saturday the Sister's Endeavor held its monthly meeting. They are working in real earnest, and passed the afternoon in a manner that greatly encouraged them. Sister Hershler is the worthy President of the Society, and Sister E. J. Worst, Secretary. It will be a power in encouraging sociability and love among the sisters of the church, besides the good work done for the cause generally.

We preached about sending preachers, from Rom. x, 15, last Lord's Day, and the offerings of members were received for the Ohio Home Mission Board. We are happy to report $5.00 as the result, which is exceedingly well for a church in which there is no wealth at all, like our church. Then our little sum is greatly enlarged by the offering made by Sister Hortense Wertz, of Crestline, Ohio, who sent us $2.00 for that purpose. May the Lord bless her for the gifts she has made. There are still several who will give more, so that Ashland, probably the smallest church in the State, will send in her good wishes and encouragement, in the name of the Lord, to the amount of about $10.00.

We are very hopeful that Bro. Keim will succeed in firmly establishing our College, and from the ruin and chaos of the four years past will rise up a Brethren Church that will not close itself in its shell and sleep away the years, while thousands of precious souls are falling into the cataract of sin and rushing on to eternal torment.

A. L. GARBER.

OUR CHURCH.

Bro. Theo. H. Stevenson sends us 50 cts. for the College.

Bro. F. H. Frame has changed his post office from Sweet Home, Ind., to New Carlile, Ind.

Bro. J. M. Tombaugh has returned from Farmersville, and is again engaged at the College.

The summer Conventions will soon be on hand. Prepare to be in attendance and encourage the work.

Sister Hortense C. Wertz has very kindly remembered the Ohio Home Mission, and donated $2.00.

Bro. Isaac Kilhefner left for Pleasant Hill, O., last week, and we suppose he is now engaged in a revival effort there.

Bro. S. H. Bashor wrote us that he would be at the Winchester church, in Farmersville charge, last Lord's Day.

If J. W. Oaks will write to us what his address is, so that we can find his name on our list, we will change his paper.

Bro. E. B. Shaver's address is now Funkstown, Maryland, instead of Maurertown, Va. He is now laboring in his new field.

Bro. J. L. Kimmel writes us that he will labor on the farm during this summer, and enter the ministerial work again in the fall.

Bro. Josiah Keim, unexpected, came to Ashland, last week, and after remaining here over night, continued his journey to Milford, Ind., where he will commence his canvass for the College.

Bro. A. Pearson, of North Star, Ohio, will have sale on the 27th of this month, and then he expects to move to Ashland, and devote his time to work in the church.

The Johnstown, Pa., congregation expects to hold a communion meeting on May 12th, at 7 P. M. The brethren and sisters of adjoining churches are invited to be with us.—J. B. Rittgers.

Bro. Josiah Keim is authorized to receive subscription for the EVANGELIST, and if you desire to save the inconvenience of sending money to us, hand it to him, if he happens to visit your church. He will hear your complaints, too, if you have not received what belongs to you.

The Brethren of Beaver Creek, congregation held their quarterly conference at Funkstown on the 12th. Business before the conference was arranged to the satisfaction of all, and the time of holding our first communion fixed for May 10th, communion at 2 P. M. All are invited to attend.—L. P. Grossnickle, Sec.